FIND US ON BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV f 🛚 🗅 🕥 🔘 in









# M

**APRIL 2025** 

esort Std S. Postage PAID n Cities, MN Permit #2293 ۳. و

POSTAL CUSTOMER

EGG-CITING NEW OPENING FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

BIG RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 6

CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN BLOOMINGTON? THAT'S RIGHT. YOU CAN SEE THESE AND MANY OTHER BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS AT THE AWARD-WINNING NORMANDALE JAPANESE GARDEN THIS SPRING AT 9700 FRANCE AVE. S. VISIT SOON. LAST YEAR, THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES BLOOMED MID-APRIL.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027









## Mayor's memo

#### CITYWIDE CREATIVE PLACEMAKING PLAN APPROVED

By Mayor Tim Busse

n March, Bloomington took a big step forward expanding creative placemaking beyond the South Loop, which has had a creative placemaking plan in place since 2015. Now, we're achieving one of the goals of the community-based strategic plan, Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together., by extending these efforts to ensure that neighborhoods throughout the city benefit.

Creative placemaking integrates art, culture and design activities into efforts that strengthen communities. Creative placemaking also builds partnerships, engages the community, activates artists and designers and boosts the local economy. It includes public space activities like murals, performances and public art.

The citywide plan prioritizes high-impact public spaces and makes sure that activities align with existing community efforts and City projects. Examples include projects that will be part of the Bloomington Ice Garden renovation, the Nine Mile Creek restoration project (learn more about all three Bloomington Forward projects online at bloomingtonforward.org) and the work underway at Bryant and Tretbaugh parks.

Using data and mapping, areas most in need of creative placemaking have been identified to make sure resources are distributed equitably. The City is also focusing on long-term sustainability, looking at funding strategies and exploring ways to integrate creative placemaking into city planning.

Bloomington is nationally recognized as a leader in the realm of creative placemaking. It's something to be proud of. I'm excited to see how this plan takes shape across our city. You can learn more about the City's Bloomington. Tomorrow. Together. initiatives and progress online at blm.mn/btt.



#### THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

pril 20-26 is National Volunteer Week. The City of ABloomington appreciates the dedication and contributions of volunteers who generously share their time and talent to enhance and improve programs, services and public spaces.

Your efforts help build a stronger, more vibrant community by improving the quality of life in Bloomington.

Learn more about the City of Bloomington's volunteer program at blm.mn/volunteer.

#### Watch the 2025 State of the CITY ONLINE

o you want to hear about the Best of Bloomington over the last year and what the City has planned for 2025? Mayor Tim Busse presented that information and more at the 2025 State of the City address on March 21. You can watch the video of the address on the City's YouTube channel at blm.mn/soc2025.





#### **BRIEFING**

Volume 32, Number 04

The Briefing, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to residents and businesses. Direct your comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715;

Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov Website: BloomingtonMN.gov

#### **BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL**



Mayor Tim Busse 952-563-8782 (w) 952-457-7506 (c) tbusse@ Blooming ton MN. gov



Councilmember At Large Jenna Carter 612-284-8751 jcarter@ BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember At Large Chao Moua 763-229-7582 cmoua@ BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District I Dwayne Lowman 952-270-2377 dlowman@ BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District II Shawn Nelson 952-479-0471 snelson@ BloomingtonMN.gov



Councilmember District III Lona Dallessandro 612-231-6824 ldallessandro@ BloomingtonMN.gov Elected officials presented for informational purposes.



Councilmember District IV Victor Rivas 952-255-9570 vrivas@ BloomingtonMN.gov

COUNCILMEMBERS

council@BloomingtonMN.gov

#### **EXECUTIVE STAFF**

City Manager's Office 952-563-8780 citymanager@Bloomington MN.govElizabeth Tolzmann, Interim City Manager 952-563-8780 citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov Kathy Hedin, Interim City Manager 952-563-8780 citymanager@BloomingtonMN.gov Kim Berggren, Community Development 952-563-8920 communitydevelopment@Bloomington nMN.gov Lori Economy-Scholler, Finance 952-563-8791 finance@BloomingtonMN.gov Ulie Seal. Fire 952-563-4801 fire@BloomingtonMN.gov Amy Cheney, Information Technology 952-563-4885 it@BloomingtonMN.gov Melissa Manderschied, Legal 952-563-8753 legal@BloomingtonMN.gov Ann Kattreh, Parks and Recreation 952-563-8877 parksrec@BloomingtonMN.gov 952-563-4900 Booker T. Hodges, Police police@BloomingtonMN.gov Public Works 952-563-8760 publicworks@BloomingtonMN.gov Nick Kelley, Public Health 952-563-8900 publichealth@BloomingtonMN.gov General phone number 952-563-8700

The City of Bloominaton does not discriminate against or deny the benefits of its services, programs, or activities to a qualified person because of a disability. The City will provide a reasonable accommodation or modify its policies and programs to allow people with disabilities to participate in all City services, programs, activities, and employment. The law does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the City. To make a request for a reasonable accommodation, ask for more information, or to file a complaint, contact the Community Outreach and Engagement Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733, MN Relay 711.



The Scramblin' Eggs' sign was installed last month as the 2024 Hatch-winning restaurant prepares to open this spring.

#### HATCH WINNER PLANS TO OPEN THIS SPRING

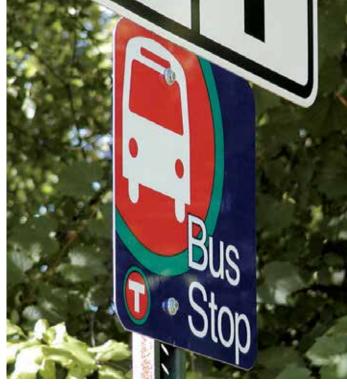
n August 2024, Scramblin' Egg was named the first winner of Hatch Bloomington, an annual retail pitch competition that offers entrepreneurs the opportunity for \$100,000 in financial assistance, significant exposure and connection to a business network.

Since then, Scramblin' Egg has been busy working with the Minneapolis Regional Chamber and the City of Bloomington to transition their food cart into a fast-casual, "Egg-centric" restaurant in the Town and Country shopping center at Portland

and American. By February 2025, the team had secured a location, hired a contractor and developed preliminary designs.

"We're excited to have signed our lease and we're busy getting the space ready for our grand opening," said owner Grant Veitenheimer. "We're also doing a lot of work in our test kitchen for some new recipes. We really miss our customers and are antsy to open so we can cook breakfast for Bloomington again!"

Visit Scramblin' Egg at scramblinegg.com or on Instagram or Facebook for the details about the restaurant's grand opening later this spring.



#### New bus route offers more OPTIONS TO MOA, AIRPORT AND MORE

■o improve service along American Boulevard and offer more frequent options for travel to the Normandale Lake District area, Southwest Transit launched a new bus route between Eden Prairie, Bloomington and Minneapolis in March. The new Route 686 operates daily from 5 a.m.-11 p.m. Buses run every 30 minutes, alternating between express and all-stop services.

Running parallel to I-494 and American Boulevard, Route 686 stops at Southwest Station (Eden Prairie) and numerous locations along American Boulevard including the Normandale Lake District and Penn American District. The route also offers connections to the Orange Line, the D-Line and key locations along American Boulevard before going to Mall of America and both Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 at the MSP Airport. The express version stays on I-494 and stops at Southwest Station, MOA and Terminal 1.

For more information and schedules, visit Southwest Transit at swtransit.org.

#### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **CITY CEMETERY**

id you know that the Bloomington City cemetery is one of just seven city-owned and maintained cemeteries in the Twin Cities metro area? The cemetery offers low-cost burial options for residents and non-residents. Bloomington residents and their families, current and former, receive preferred pricing. Many burial plots and columbaria niches are currently available.

The City Clerk's Office maintains cemetery records, sells lots and schedules interments, and Public Works maintains the grounds.

For pricing, rules and regulations, available lots and niches, burial information or to make an appointment to purchase, visit blm.mn/city-cemetery.

#### A LITTLE HISTORY

Established in 1856 by Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, the Bloomington City Cemetery was acquired by the City of Bloomington in 1864. A portion of the cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places.





#### Join a board or **COMMISSION**

■ity boards and commissions need you.

Get more involved in your community by serving on a City board or commission. The City is currently seeking applicants to serve on the Planning Commission and young adult seats (age 16-23) on the Human Rights Commission, Parks, Arts and Recreation Commission, and Sustainability Commission.

Visit blm.mn/boards for more information or to apply. The deadline is May 18. Questions? Contact Community Outreach and Engagement at 952-563-8733 or outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov.



#### **NEW PROPOSED** PARKING RAMP **ORDINANCE**

#### A STEP TOWARD ENHANCED **SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE**

he City is seeking feedback on a proposed parking ramp licensing ordinance that aims to ensure public safety and infrastructure integrity by requiring that parking ramps older than five years undergo a systematic monitoring process. The proposed ordinance would, if approved by City Council, be enacted in 2026.

A well-maintained parking ramp is essential for vehicular storage. This ordinance would promote safety, encourage maintenance and provide opportunity for data collection to inform future infrastructure initiatives.

To provide feedback, contact Building Official Bernadette Gillespie at bgillespie@BloomingtonMN.gov or 952-563-4709. Or join the Let's Talk page conversation at blm.mn/letstalk to submit feedback or questions.



## SWEEPING IS NOT JUST FOR FLOORS

To keep our streets clean and debris out of surface waters, City crews begin to sweep the 342 miles of road in Bloomington in April, weather permitting. It takes the crews about four to five weeks to complete this work.

Just as with other road equipment, sweepers often move slowly and may have obstructed views. Please stay safe by giving them extra room.

For a map of the street sweeping progress in Bloomington and other details, visit blm.mn/maint.



# PICKING UP YOUR PET'S POO PREVENTS POLLUTION

ccording to the Environmental Protection Agency, pet waste is a leading source of nutrient and bacteria pollution in urban streams and waterways. Bloomington City ordinance requires dog caregivers, whether the owner or handler, to clean up their pet's poo from all public or private property. This means everywhere, including your yards.

Why? Pet waste contains three types of pollutants that harm local waters: nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus that deplete oxygen and encourage the growth of harmful algae, and disease-causing bacteria and parasites that can make water unsafe to swim in and unfishable. And the longer pet waste remains on the ground, the more pollutants seep out.

So be prepared. Keep waste bags on hand and pick up your pet's poo. To learn more, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/dogwaste.



Hyland Hills South condo Earth Action Heros (from left) Linda Rasmussen, Sandy Shultz, Lynn Nelson, Barb Soine, Jim Shultz and Celeste McAllister. Not pictured: Bob Moncur.

# EARTH ACTION HEROES: HYLAND HILLS SOUTH TAKES ON BUCKTHORN

hen Hyland Hills South Condo Association president Celeste McAllister saw Appletree Condo's restoration project in the *Briefing*, she looked out on buckthorn in the back of their 54-unit building and brought it to the association's landscape committee. Co-chairs Linda Rasmussen, Sandy Shultz and Barb Soine reached out to Bloomington Water Specialist Jack Distel for advice.

"Jack came out with a lot of information," said Shultz, one of seven primary volunteers. "We applied for a Nine Mile Creek Watershed District grant last year but funds had already been used. We reapplied this year and have been approved."

In phase one of the project in 2024, three hardworking volunteers and condo residents, Bob Moncur, Lynn Nelson and Jim Shultz, battled back the buckthorn on about a quarter acre of land. Native plants were also added to stabilize a retaining wall.

With the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District grant, work in 2025 will include ongoing buckthorn removal and suppression, and spreading a buckthorn replacement seed mix.

"This project takes a lot of collaborative work," Shultz said. "But it will be worth it to see wildflowers and native plants replacing the buckthorn."



#### BLOOMINGTON CELEBRATES SUSTAINABILITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS EARTH MONTH

A pril is Earth Month and April 22 is Earth Day. To celebrate, here is a glimpse of earth-friendly actions the City achieved in 2024 by the numbers.



#### REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES

- 164 households participated in the Home Energy Squad program.
- 7 electric trucks were added to the City's fleet.



### ENHANCING NATURAL RESOURCES

- 413 trees were planted by City staff and volunteers.
- 20 acres of oak woodland were restored in the Minnesota River Valley.



#### REDUCING SOLID WASTE

- 1,835 tons of food and compostable material were collected in curbside organics recycling.
- 30%+ of solid waste customers have an organics cart.



#### IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

 3,495 pounds of debris were collected through the Adopt-a-Drain program.



#### CONSERVING WATER

- 556,000 gallons of water were saved with Civic Plaza irrigation upgrades.
- 99 rebates were issued for water saving devices.

#### LEARN MORE

Read more about the City's sustainability work in the 2024 Sustainability Annual Report at blm.mn/sustainabilityreport.

#### Join the Bloomington Renewable Energy Challenge

ooking for a small step to make a big change this Earth Month? Join the Bloomington Renewable Energy Challenge.

Bloomington homeowners, renters and businesses with an Xcel Energy electric account can participate. All you need to do is sign up for Renewable Connect Flex®, and you can harness the power of local renewable energy without purchasing, installing or maintaining onsite equipment. Tell your family, friends and neighbors and help us get 30 signups by the end of April.

Choose how much renewable energy you would like to use while supporting wind and solar resources. For an additional \$1-\$10 a month, the average Bloomington household can source up to 100% of its electricity from renewable energy.

 ${\it Join the Renewable Energy Challenge by signing up for Renewable Connect Flex@at xcelenergy.com/renewable} connect.$ 



#### RON CROOK NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

irefighter/Fire Inspector Ron Crook has been named Bloomington Fire Department's 2024 Firefighter of the Year. He began as a paid-on-call firefighter in 2016 before becoming a full-time firefighter and fire inspector in 2022. In his role, he oversees fire operations, inspections, investigations and community education to help keep Bloomington safe.

A Bloomington native, Ron has a passion for physical challenges, from backpacking and road trips to endurance events. His background in heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration has also been an asset on the job.

On receiving the award, Ron said, "It's a big achievement and I appreciate the recognition even if the spotlight's a little bright."



#### MEET PUBLIC HEALTH DIETITIAN KATIE MEAUX

Public Health Dietitian Katie Meaux came to the Bloomington Women, Infants and Children (WIC) team in October 2024 and is enjoying Minnesota.

She arrived here from the South after completing a bachelor's degree in dietetics in Louisiana and a master's degree in nutrition and a dietetic internship in North Carolina. She worked five years providing nutrition counseling and education to students in the St. Paul schools before coming to Bloomington.

With her family, husband Evan and their cat, Bunsen, Meaux has found a great community of friends and she is enjoying the great outdoors here. From tennis and paddle boarding in the summer to ice climbing and broomball in the winter, she loves it all, including her new job.

"I am honored to be part of a program that has made such a positive impact on the well-being of so many women and children, and I am excited to grow in this role," Meaux said.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH TIP

Access to healthy foods can have a huge impact on people, and it is easy to find out if your family qualifies for WIC.

Remember, health is not all or nothing. It's about moderation and balance, which looks different for everyone.

#### CELEBRATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND THANK A PUBLIC HEALTH WORKER

ational Public Health Week is April 7-13. The theme for its 30th anniversary is "It Starts Here" to emphasize that public health starts with each of us.

Every year, Bloomington Public Health serves nearly 180,000 residents in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. Public health workers are our neighbors, family members, friends and coworkers. Please take a moment this month to thank them for all that they do to promote, protect and improve the health of all.

For more information about public health services in Bloomington, visit blm.mn/ph or call 952-563-8900.



## You're invited Rain or shine

Two of the City's public safety departments are each hosting open houses on Saturday, May 17.



#### **PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE**

Public Works staff is throttling up to open their doors for this free open house 9 a.m.-12 p.m., 1700 W. 98th St. Get an insider's look at equipment and facilities and get to know the people who keep Bloomington infrastructure running. Enjoy equipment rides, demonstrations, interactive displays, snacks, prizes and other family fun.



#### Police Open House

Bloomington Police are opening its doors and providing a great opportunity to tour the department 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. You'll be able to check out equipment displays by the Emergency Response Unit, Bomb Squad, Drone Unit and K9 Unit in the parking lot on the east side of Civic Plaza. Representatives from throughout BPD will be on hand to lead department tours and to chat. There will be food trucks and games, too!



#### WALKING CLUB SEASON STARTS MAY 6

Bloomington is home to some of the best parks and trails in the metro area. Enjoy all the benefits of walking, socializing and exploring the city's many parks by joining Bloomington Parks and Recreation's free Walking Club. The group meets on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. beginning May 6. The Walking Club is geared toward active older adults, but everyone is welcome. A staff member guides participants on one-to three-mile walks of varying intensity. Walkers can set their own pace and distance.

Join the first walk of the season on May 6 and receive a free giveaway (while supplies last). For more information, call 952-563-4944. Register online at blm.mn/webtrac.



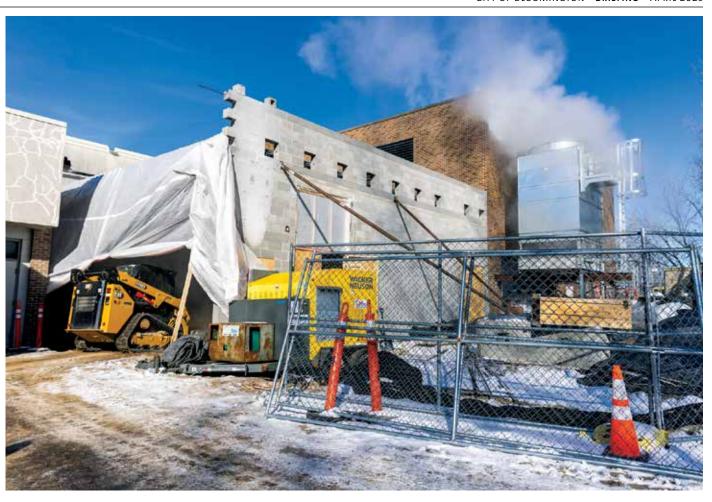
# PARKS AND RECREATION IS HIRING FOR SUMMER JOBS

ooking for a rewarding way
to spend your summer?
Bloomington Parks and Recreation
is hiring for a variety of positions
including facility attendants, youth
program coordinators, counselors, golf
services, Zamboni drivers and more.
Most jobs are open to people 16
and older.

If you're looking to give back as a volunteer, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in community programs.

Apply for jobs at blm.mn/prjobs or learn more about volunteering at blm.mn/volunteer.

BLOOMINGTONMN.GOV



# BLOOMINGTON ICE GARDEN MODERNIZATION UNDERWAY

enovations at Bloomington Ice Garden are in progress, with construction having begun in mid-March and continuing through late fall. The modernization project will update facilities, improve accessibility and replace aging mechanical systems including the ice plant.

The project includes downsizing Rink 3 to NHL size, new locker rooms, improved ticketing, concessions, major roofing and ADA upgrades. Please note that BIG is now closed for the remainder of the construction.

For details, visit bloomingtonforward.org/big.

## SKATE SCHOOL TEMPORARILY RELOCATING TO RICHFIELD

Renovations as part of the Bloomington Forward Modernization project, *see above*, are underway at Bloomington Ice Garden and will continue until fall. While BIG remains closed for construction, Skate School has relocated to Richfield Ice Arena, 636 E. 66th St. for sessions beginning in late spring and continuing through summer. Participants will still benefit from the same Learn to Skate program taught by BIG Skate School instructors for spring and summer sessions in Richfield. Skate School returns to BIG in fall 2025.

For information, visit blm.mn/big or email rgelecinskyj@bloomingtonmn.gov.





#### CELEBRATE AANHPI HERITAGE

everyone is welcome to the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Celebration on Wednesday, April 30, 2-6 p.m., at Normandale Community College, 9700 France Ave. S. This event is hosted by the Normandale Asian Cultural Student Club, Normandale Foundation and City of Bloomington.

Learn about AANHPI Heritage Month in May, celebrate diversity, unity and respect, foster connections, visit the beautiful Japanese Garden, enjoy authentic, traditional food, inspiring cultural displays and more!



#### NOTABLE NEIGHBOR: JEFF ZUPFER

or nearly 30 years, Jeff Zupfer has brought music to life for students at Normandale Hills Elementary School. Starting in 1995, Zupfer shifted from his initial goal of becoming a high school choir director to teaching elementary music. "Fate brought me here, and I have no regrets," Zupfer said. Known as Mr. Z by his students, he's made a lasting impact on generations of learners.

Over the years, Zupfer has creatively enhanced the learning experience by writing original songs focused on social-emotional learning. These songs, which cover themes like mindfulness and gratitude, are performed at monthly school rallies, promoting important values within the school community.

His dedication was recently recognized with the Inclusive Educator Award from Intermediate District 917.

"I try to make sure every kid feels like they have a place," Zupfer said. "Inclusion is really part of the DNA at

Outside of teaching, Zupfer stays active in the music community. He works at MetroNOME Brewery in St. Paul, where a portion of the proceeds support music lessons for underprivileged children. He also maintains a YouTube channel for students, families and former students to enjoy his projects. After nearly three decades, his commitment to music and teaching remains strong.

"Teaching is never easy, but I'm grateful to be here," Zupfer said.

#### **BLOOMINGTON SUPPORTS FAMILIES WITH APRIL 26 EVENTS**



#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPO**

hether you're looking for educational resources, f Y health information or simply a day of family fun, the Early Childhood Expo is your one-stop destination. The City, Bloomington Public Schools and Hennepin Health are excited to host an Early Childhood Expo on Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

This fun and resource-packed event is designed to support families with children ages five and under. From health services to early learning programs, the expo brings together an array of exhibitors, including Hennepin Health, Public Health and Early Learning Services, to provide caregivers with the tools they need to nurture their little ones.

But that's not all! This year's expo also features:

- Interactive breakout sessions offering expert tips for parents and caregivers.
- A Baby Gear Swap where you can find new treasures for kids two years old and younger.
- Hands-on arts and crafts activities and a soothing sensory room.
- Live entertainment from Luke Warm and the Cool Hands Bluegrass Band, and The Toonies ENVIRO Family-Fun

Don't miss out on the chance to win door prizes and enjoy free food, while supplies last.

Language interpreters will be available. For more details including breakout session descriptions, visit blm.mn/ECExpo or email Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Amanda Crombie at acrombie@BloomingtonMN.gov.



#### **BABY GEAR SWAP**

Bloomington Solid Waste has partnered with the Early Childhood Expo to offer a Baby Gear Swap on Saturday, April 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Stop by the Black Box Theater in Civic Plaza to swap clean, gently used items for babies two years old and younger. You do not have to bring a donation to take items home, and all items are free. Note: Items at the swap are provided "as is" with no guarantee of the condition or working order.

For more details, including what is accepted and what is not accepted at the swap, visit blm.mn/bgs.



#### **BLOOMINGTON** YESTERDAY

#### MINNIE (ELLINGSON) **TAPPING**

innie Tapping was a well-▲known writer and community leader in Bloomington. She was admired for her poetry, love of nature and work in the community.

Born in 1860, Tapping grew up on a farm in Bloomington, where her family settled shortly after arriving in the area. After her father passed away, her mother remarried Sever Ellingson. Minnie was active in local organizations and helped shape Bloomington's community life.

At age 60, Tapping made headlines by enrolling at the University of Minnesota with her two children, Mendon and Regina. Her bold decision to return to school at an age when most would retire challenged expectations and showed that growth and education have no age limit.

Tapping's personal life included her marriage to E.A. Tapping. The couple met at a Christian Endeavor meeting in London in 1901. After their return to Minnesota, E.A. Tapping would often ride his bicycle 16 miles from Minneapolis to court Minnie at the family farm.

Minnie Tapping's legacy is remembered in Bloomington for her writing, contributions to the community and kindness to her neighbors and family. Her book, Eighty Years at the Gopher Hole is available from the Hennepin County Library for those who wish to read it.

Photo and all content are from the Bloomington Historical Society.

#### **BLOOMINGTON** HISTORY 101

earn essential Bloomington History in just 15 minutes on April 26, at 2 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m., at the Bloomington Historical Society, 10200 Penn Ave. S. The presentation will cover the major points of Bloomington history, what every history-savvy local resident should know. Learn more about the Bloomington Historical Society at bloomingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

#### UP TO CODE: KEEPING BLOOMINGTON AT ITS BEST

esidents play an important role in maintaining property values and the appearance of Bloomington neighborhoods. The City code describes standards for property maintenance and relies on residents to take care of their properties. Here are some common standards set forth in the City code regulating your house and neighborhood.



#### **PARKING**

Vehicles must be parked in the garage or on an approved driveway.

Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles must be stored in the garage. This includes vehicles with expired tabs.

No more than four vehicles may be parked outside of a garage, excluding visitors. Trailers that exceed six feet in height or have a bed length of more than eight feet six inches cannot be stored outside of the garage. One trailer under this size may be stored outside, no closer than five feet to side yard property lines. A utility trailer may also be parked in the driveway if it is at least 30 feet back from the street.

Nonresidential vehicles taller than seven feet six inches or longer than 22 feet cannot park in residential areas.



#### RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

All recreational vehicles parked or stored near a dwelling must be owned or leased by an occupant of that dwelling. Guests may park recreational vehicles on a driveway for a period not exceeding seven days in any consecutive six-month period, provided all other standards are met.

Any recreational vehicle less than 40 feet in length may be temporarily parked in the driveway for the sole purpose of loading or unloading and routine maintenance for a period not exceeding 72 hours within seven consecutive days.

If the recreational vehicle extends more than eight feet in front of the dwelling it must meet the following additional standards:

- Must be set back at least five feet from any property line, at least ten feet from any sidewalk, and at least 20 feet from the back side of any street curb or edge of pavement.
  - Must not exceed 11 feet in height at any point.
  - Must not exceed 25 feet in length, including trailers.
- Must be parked or stored no more than 30 feet closer to the street than the principal building on the same site.
- Must be parked or stored on a conforming or legally nonconforming driveway or off-drive parking area.

Recreational vehicles parked at homes that are on corner lots have additional requirements. Some recreational vehicles also have seasonal requirements depending on the type. A permit is not required to store recreational vehicles in compliance with the City code. Many properties are unique. If you are unsure about a requirement, please call 952-563-8920 or email City staff at planning@BloomingtonMN.gov for clarification.



#### HOME MAINTENANCE AND OUTDOOR STORAGE

Store materials, machinery and equipment in a building or fully screened area so they are not visible from adjoining or adjacent lands. Home exteriors must be maintained free from peeling, chipping and other deterioration. This includes siding, windows, trim, roof, doors, driveways, sheds and fences.

The size and location of firewood stacks are also regulated by City code.



#### REFUSE, LITTER AND WEEDS

When tall grass inspections begin, grass must be cut before it reaches eight inches in height and before it goes to seed. All noxious weeds must be removed. All twigs, tree and shrub branches that fall in the yard must be removed immediately or stored in an enclosed container. Brush piles are not allowed on residential properties.

Garbage must be stored within a building or an enclosed container.

All refuse, recycling, compost, twigs and brush should be placed at the assigned collection location no more than 12 hours before collection day. Waste containers must be removed no more than 12 hours after collection day. Garbage and recycling containers for single-family, detached homes must be set back 30 feet from any four-season living area other than the owner's. Garbage and recycling containers cannot be stored more than five feet in front of the principal building along any public right of way.



#### Home businesses

Certain businesses are prohibited in residential zones, including manufacturing, vehicle repair and retail where customers come to the house. Home businesses are separated into two types: Type 1 businesses include beauty shops, tutoring and piano instruction, but these have limits on the number of daily customers allowed. Type 2 businesses require Council approval.

#### **OTHER CITY CODES**

This is not a complete list of City codes. To read all City codes, visit blm.mn/code.

#### **NOTICE AN ISSUE?**

Let us know if a neighborhood property is becoming an issue. To report a nuisance or ordinance violation, call Environmental Health at 952-563-8934 or email envhealth@BloomingtonMN.gov.